

Gorbachev strips party of grip on media

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev effectively stripped the Communist Party of its grip on the state-run media Sunday, ordering that no single party or group should monopolise broadcasting. In a presidential decree which becomes law immediately, Gorbachev said the growing democracy and pluralism in Soviet society called for "cardinal change in the nature of the economy's television and radio broadcasting." Though the party will lose its grip on the media and independent parties will be able to open their own stations, Gorbachev made clear that the government will retain ultimate control of the state-run broadcasting network. The decree rejects Gorbachev's determination over the past two years to transfer power from the party to the government. Individual republics, many eager to at least lessen their links with Moscow, will be given more power over local television and radio stations.

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AMMAN MONDAY, JULY 16, 1990, DHUL HIJEH 24, 1410

Skimpy dress prompted Egyptian attack

CAIRO (R) — A 25-year-old Egyptian accused of setting fire to a Red Sea hotel, which two European tourists died, acted out of disgust at what he considered the obscene behaviour and skimpy dress of foreigners, security sources said. The sources said the man, a painter from Dakhla in the Nile Governorate of Dakhla, told police he planned his attack in the resort village of Hurghada four days ago. "He acted alone and was upset by what he saw as the obscene behaviour and dress of tourists in Hurghada," one source said. The painter has been charged with the murder of a 26-year-old West German woman and a Frenchwoman who died in the blaze which the sources said began in the hotel restaurant. He also faces charges of attempted murder against nine other people. The Red Sea coast, favoured as a winter resort, attracts thousands of mainly young European package tourists every year. While most tourist brochures advise visitors to Egypt to cover their legs and arms and behave decorously in public, few appear to do so at beach resorts.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية معاشرة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

Soviet team to discuss emigres with PLO, Jordan

TUNIS (R) — A Soviet parliamentary delegation arrived in Tunisia Sunday for talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the mass migration of Soviet Jews to Israel. The delegation, led by parliament member Valentine Tetenov, will discuss the influx with the PLO and will later visit Jordan and Syria, Soviet sources said. PLO sources said the delegation might meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat before leaving for Amman Thursday. Tetenov is chairman of the Soviet parliament committee on transport. A major issue in the emigration debate has been whether Moscow should allow direct flights to Israel.

Militias battle in South Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah militias fought with machineguns and mortars in South Lebanon Sunday, security sources said. There was no immediate word on casualties in the three-hour battle in the Iqlim Al Toufah area, a mountainous strip some 40 kilometres south of Beirut, the sources said.

Bhutto in Bahrain

BAHRAYN (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived Sunday on the last leg of a tour of Arab states seeking support in her confrontation with India over Kashmir. Bhutto was received by the prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, with whom she will hold talks during her two-day stay. She was scheduled to fly home Monday at the end of the tour, which has also taken her to Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco and Algeria.

Bomb attacks kill 30 in Pakistani town

HYDERABAD (R) — Thirty people were killed and more than 100 injured in a rash of bomb attacks on Sunday in the southwestern Pakistani town of Hyderabad, doctors said. The five blasts, which occurred at four crowded places in the troubled Sind province town and inside a moving train within a period of 30 minutes, were followed by gunfights between rival ethnic groups, witnesses said. There was no immediate information about who had planted what police called powerful home-made bombs, whose explosions coincided with a protest strike called by the nationalist Jiy Sind movement.

Arab envoy arrives in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim arrived in Beirut Sunday in another attempt to mediate a solution to Lebanon's civil war, political sources said. Ibrahim, due to meet Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, is trying to implement last year's Arab-brokered peace pact aimed at ending the 15-year conflict.

Goulding in Tyre

TYRE (AP) — Marrack Goulding, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, arrived Sunday for a visit with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). U.N. sources said. The sources said Goulding's private plane arrived at Beirut airport in the early afternoon.

S. Arabia, Iran keep up war of words

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia and Iran continued their war of words Sunday over the Hajj tunnel disaster, with a Saudi newspaper branding Iranian leaders as "sick" and an Iranian daily demanding an official "apology" to the Muslim world. The Saudi daily Al Jazira said Tehran had missed an opportunity, created by last month's devastating earthquake, to regain world respect by claiming that Saudi leaders planned the disaster in which more than 1,400 pilgrims died. "The behaviour of Iran's sick rulers dashed the hopes... and eliminated the opportunity, awaited by everybody, for Iran's leaders to go back to their senses and wisdom," the paper said.

Nabulsi explains Petra Bank moves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi Sunday reaffirmed that the CBJ was fully committed to protecting and guaranteeing the deposits of Petra Bank transferred to the Housing Bank and that the CBJ had made special arrangements to meet the urgent requirements of account holders for funds in the interim period until the transfer process is completed.

The CBJ governor, speaking in an interview with Jordan Television after a visit to the CBJ by His Majesty King Hussein, also gave the first official confirmation that the deposits of Petra Bank amounted to around JD 10 million.

According to Nabulsi, the Economic Security Committee (ESC) has taken four key decisions related to the fate of Petra Bank. These, he said, are:

"The banking and other financial institutions in Jordan are big enough to absorb Petra Bank employees," Nabulsi said. "The banking sector should share its responsibility towards finding a solution to the problem."

The choice of the Housing Bank to receive Petra Bank deposits, Nabulsi said, was made in consideration of its "high reputation and highly professional management." He expressed confidence that most of the depositors would opt to maintain their deposits with the Housing Bank.

The decision to liquidate Petra Bank was taken not because it

is expected to be completed by July 21. In the meantime, account holders who might need urgent funds can deposit their Petra Bank deposit certificates at the Central Bank and obtain money. Once the transfer process is completed, depositors will have the full right to exercise their options with the deposits.

— Liquidation of Petra Bank.

Efforts to ensure that Petra Bank employees, who would be continued to be employed during the liquidation period, secure alternate employment with other banking institutions in the country. Some of them will be absorbed in a new investment and export bank, he said.

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The decision to liquidate Petra Bank was taken not because it

broke, Nabulsi said. After eight months of scrutiny of the bank's books and situation, it was found that its liabilities were much higher than its assets, and there was no way to ensure its survival "no matter what we can do," Nabulsi said. He said the bank had exhausted all of its capital as well as reserves.

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Petra Bank staff vow to fight

By Sana Afyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra Bank employees vowed to fight for their right to be appointed in similar positions with the same conditions as they had at Petra Bank," Rashid told 250 employees.

In a statement sent to the minister of labour, the Central Bank governor and the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, the association called on the government to "disclose the names of those responsible for the deterioration of Petra Bank, bring them to justice and reveal the steps taken to return the money that was embezzled."

The statement also called on Parliament deputies to "play their proper roles to solve the Petra Bank problem."

"If we don't get similar jobs with the same conditions, positions and salaries in other financial institutions, I and many others and our children will go to a hunger strike until our rights are fulfilled," Mary Aghabi, an employee at Petra Bank told the Jordan Times Sunday.

At a meeting held Saturday night by the Banking and Insurance Employees Association (BIEA) for Petra Bank employees, BIEA President Haidar Rashid vowed to support them in any steps they wanted to ensure that they are placed in similar positions.

"You can fight for your rights, and your battle can start here now in this meeting and end with a hunger strike in front of the House

night, four had "previous engagements and could not come, and the representative of the Islamic Bloc in Parliament said he wanted a formal memo and did not show up," according to one employee who did not want to be identified. Only Deputy Bassam Haddadin was present at the meeting.

The bank employees, who were not told what they should do after the liquidation of the bank, are preparing a petition to the prime minister demanding that their future be clarified.

At the meeting, the personnel officer, Mazen Saket, told the employees that the most important factor at this time was to unite their efforts, "otherwise, all of us will end up on the streets."

Saket told the Jordan Times that although "marital law was frozen in the country, Petra Bank is the only institution that still falls under the law."

Sawsan Jarar, an active employee, told the Jordan Times that "our destiny is the same — from the manager to the coffee boy. We will all be on the street unless we all stick together and fight for our rights."

The employees interviewed by the Jordan Times Sunday said they would not accept a one year compensation for losing their jobs.

"What is supposed to happen

(Continued on page 4)

Substitutes for defence law — another landmark for Jordan

By Joymana Halasa and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The Legal Committee of the Lower House of Parliament meets tomorrow to discuss the much-awaited substitute legislation for the 1935 Defence Law as pledged by the government, which has cleared the way for the debate on the floor by revoking the jurisdiction of martial law authorities in almost all areas.

Few details have emerged of the new defence law, which, senior officials have emphasized, will not automatically replace the 1935 legislation under whose provisions martial law was declared in the Kingdom in 1967. "The new law will be enforced only in cases of extreme emergency," said a senior official. "Enforcement of the law would need a recommendation from the Council of Ministers and a royal decree."

The government, in line with a promise made to parliament in January, from all provisions of the martial law and no cases were sent to military trial although many crimes committed in the Kingdom since then would have normally been assigned to military courts, assuring government employees, army and police officers of obstructing their official duty, firing arms for no reason in residential areas, forgery of banknotes and coins, tampering with passports, and murder or attempt of murder for motives of revenge.

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In addition to the draft defence law, a package of laws submitted to the Lower House by the government includes a series of provisions and amendments dealing with various

could mean that a "national security court," which was set up in 1959 and made mostly dormant with the proclamation of the martial law in 1967, will now be revived to handle cases related to sale of land to the "enemy," drug trafficking and dealing, espionage, external and internal security, possession or use of weapons with the aim of undermining security, sabotage, illegal gambling activities and slandering the Monarch. Since 1967, the court has mostly been trying cases related to the sale of land in the occupied territories to Israelis by Palestinians.

Rulings of the "national security court" are not subject to appeal. (Martial law court rulings were also unappealable). But the prime minister can order retrial of cases by the same court if he deems so. The court has three judges, either civilians or military officers.

The revocation of martial law jurisdiction does not extend to cases related to the Petra Bank affair. "Petra Bank cases will be the last of their nature to go on trial by a military court," said Hussein Mjalli, a member of the Lower House and a former president of the Jordan Bar Association.

(According to informed legal sources, no case related to Petra Bank has been sent to the military court yet. Investigations and

(Continued on page 4)



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi during a visit he paid to the Central Bank Sunday

(Petra photo)

accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran

(Petra photo)

King visits CBJ, briefed on monetary, banking situation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday paid a visit to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and held a meeting with Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the CBJ's deputy governors.

The King listened to a briefing on the monetary and banking situations in general.

In a statement to Petra, Nabulsi said he briefed the King on banking procedures taken during

the last three days to correct and rectify the situation of Petra Bank, particularly issues related to transfer of deposits, liquidation of the bank, safety of deposits and safeguarding the rights of depositors and bank employees.

The governor reviewed steps the bank will take to absorb Petra Bank employees and safeguard their rights.

Prince Talal engaged

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad Sunday got engaged to Ghadah Hanif Mohammad Salam, the Royal Court announced Sunday.

Prince Talal, the eldest son of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, was born on June 26, 1965. He graduated from the British military academy at Sandhurst in 1988 and secured another degree from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., in 1989. He serves as an officer with the Armed Forces.

Israeli jet goes missing

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said Sunday that an air force plane flown by a lone pilot disappeared during an unauthorized flight Friday.

The pilot who was on alert in an air force base in the centre of the country took off without authorization," an army statement said. The army had been conducting a widespread search by land and sea since Friday morning, it said.

Asked for details on radar detection of the flight, an army spokeswoman told Reuters: "No details, no names — just the statement."

PLO seeks to ensure Arab support

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was to ask Arab foreign minister Sunday to take its side against any U.S. attempt to bypass the organisation in Middle East peace moves.

The PLO called for the Arab League meeting three weeks ago, shortly after U.S. President George Bush announced he was suspending dialogue with the organisation until it condemned a guerrilla dialogue raid on Israel.

PLO Executive Committee member Suleiman Najab said last week that some Arab states were asking for more time for consultations with Washington.

"The meeting is very important and a test of intentions. We see no justification for postponing it," Najab added.

Salah Khalaf, a leading member of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah group, said in an interview published Sunday that the Palestinians wanted the meeting to "strengthen Arab solidarity with the PLO in the face of U.S. attitudes."

Diplomatic sources say Egypt has been mediating between the PLO and the United States on the conditions for resuming the dialogue.

Qasem arrives in Tunis

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who arrived here Sunday after a private visit to the United States, will lead the Kingdom's delegation to the meeting.

Qasem held talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit to the U.S.

PCC meeting postponed

The PLO has postponed indefinitely a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) that was scheduled for July 18 in the Iraqi capital, a Palestinian official said Sunday.

"We've got a few small nuts to crack, but we have very good teeth. We'll crack them," Gorbachev said.

The two declined to elaborate on teasing hints that a major breakthrough was near. Their aides were more explicit.

Asked if he expected an agreement on NATO membership for a united Germany, which West Germany's allies support but Moscow has resolutely opposed, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerashimov said:

"Yes, I expect one."

"We're moving closer to each other rapidly," a Bonn delegation member said.

Gorbachev and Kohl said they

made major progress on a treaty

governing relations between the Soviet Union and a united Germany.

Kohl arrived in Moscow late Saturday on a two-day visit, his second trip to the Soviet capital this year.

Neither leader revealed what progress had been made on the treaty, which would replace the Moscow treaty, a non-aggression pact ratified by the West German and Soviet parliaments in 1972.

The pact has formed the basis of relations.

Lebanese kidnappers in no rush to free hostages

BEIRUT (R) — While the families of kidnap victims spend agonising days and nights by the phone, Lebanon's hostage-takers coldly calculate the best moment to seize maximum publicity for a release.

Since the spate of abductions of Westerners began in 1984, kidnappers and countries involved in releases have usually timed the event carefully to secure the greatest media attention.

Iran's official IRNA news agency began the latest hostage-watch eight days ago with a report from Beirut that a Westerner, probably a European, was expected to go free soon.

After the soccer World Cup final last Sunday, diplomats said, the media stage seemed set.

Then Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, personally involved in previous releases, left for Egypt with President Hafez Al Assad. Diplomats doubt any breakthrough until he returns to Damascus early this week.

Kidnappers have always kept families and envoys in the dark, at their mercy and at the mercy of

hoaxers.

"They are the actors and the captives' families are the audience," said one source.

Even experienced diplomats are at a loss, asking journalists questions instead of answering them.

The release procedure, a nightmare for victims and their families, is all in a day's work for the kidnappers, one pro-Iranian political source said.

"Time apparently does not count for the captors. They hold the initiative. They control things. They don't feel the pressure of time," he said.

The latest report brought scores of journalists from all over the world to Damascus, where hostages are normally handed over to their country's diplomats.

Some 64 foreign nationals have been kidnapped in Lebanon in the past six years, of whom 11 were killed or died in captivity and 38 have gained freedom.

The 15 left, most to them believed held by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group, include six Americans and three Britons.

stayed glued to the phone. So far, neither diplomats or relatives have heard anything but rumours.

Pro-Iranian fundamentalists, often eager to win publicity for their cause, complain that the Western media is obsessed with its own captives but indifferent to the fate of Arab prisoners held by Israel.

In the past four years, U.S. television networks have spent tens of millions of dollars covering the hostage story. Several networks only kept crews in Beirut in case a American was freed.

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The latest family to have its hopes raised of a hostage release is that of Irishman Brian Keenan, tipped by several sources as the likeliest candidate for freedom after more than four years.

Irish envoys came to Beirut and Damascus while his family put the champagne on ice and

per cent behind the Iranian order.

Khomeini ordered Muslims around the world to kill Rushdie for blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses," forcing the Indian-born author to go into hiding.

But Siddiqui reminded Muslims in Britain of their overriding duty to obey British laws.

Earlier, he told the conference that Muslims in Britain faced a "lava of hatred" from every Briton in the land and proposed a manifesto calling for the creation of a separate parliament to debate issues of concern to British Muslims.

"It pours from the mouths of

cabinet ministers, from judges... from Parsons to policemen... indeed, from every nook and cranny of this great country of ours," Siddiqui said.

The burning of Rushdie's book by Muslims in the city of Bradford last year marked the start of protests that spread across the Muslim World and threatened race relations in Britain, which has a population of 1.5 million Muslims.

Members of the extreme right-wing National Front staged a protest outside the conference hall in central London, carrying posters saying "No return to the dark ages" and "If you don't like our laws get out of our country."

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists are clashing with secularists over shorts, music and mixing of the sexes in Algeria after the sweeping Islamist victory in June local elections.

A month after taking office, fundamentalist mayors and provincial councils have taken the first steps towards implementing their concept of Islamic law in streets, esplanades and school classrooms.

The measures have provoked a furious and immediate outcry from officials, liberal parties and the state-run media, which remains virulently anti-fundamentalist.

In the Mediterranean resort of Tipaza, west of Algiers, bills posted on the main streets announce a dress code signed by the mayor last week — no shorts above the knees for men, and no shorts at all for women.

The wali (provincial governor), appointed by the interior ministry which remains in the hands of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), on Saturday called the edict unconstitutional and annulled it.

In the eastern city of Constantine, the country's third largest, the provincial council last week banned co-educational classrooms and the sale and distribution of alcohol, a local paper reported.

If confirmed, the co-ed segregation order is almost certain to be fought by higher authorities.

In the western city of Oran, municipal authorities have decided for the first time since 1985 not to hold an annual festival of rai music, the pulsating blend of African funk and Western pop whose lyrics are often blatantly sexual.

Fundamentalist pressure appears responsible, even though the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) mayor of Oran told Algerian radio last week the festival had never been scheduled.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Kora
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News summary
16:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO
16:10 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:20 Action in the North Atlantic
PRAYER TIMES
04:43 Fajr
05:36 (Sarur) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 'Asr
19:47 Magreb
21:28 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifch
Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Association Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Maronite Church Tel. 622266.
Church of the Association Tel. 625451.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812855.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 20 / 33
Aqaba 26 / 41
Deserts 21 / 36
Jordan Valley 25 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 33, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdellah Halayea 700522
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqub 652122
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Fouta 675480
Dr. Hisham Khamis 650286
First pharmacists 651912
Ferlow's pharmacists 778336
Al Asema pharmacists 637053
Nairoum pharmacists 623672
Al Salam pharmacists 636730
Yacob pharmacists 644945
Shmeissani pharmacists 657660

IRIDI:

Dr. Radwan Al Sead (—)
Al Sharas' pharmacists 985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziad Ju'eesh (—)
Khalilah pharmacists 985417

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Aqaba 26 / 41
Deserts 21 / 36
Jordan Valley 25 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-



Sisters of Beirut hostage Brian Keenan, Brenda Gillham (foreground) and Elaine Spence wait for news on the impending release of their brother.

Islamists, secularists clash in Algeria

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EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 691228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 684302

Traffic Police 686390

Police Security Department 630321

Police Complaints 603800

Police Complaints 661176

Jordan, Syria to discuss cooperation in construction

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee on housing, public works and reconstruction opens a four-day meeting in Amman Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation in housing and construction, ahead of a meeting in Damascus later this month by the Jordanian-Syrian higher joint committee which will be chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The joint committee, which was set up by the higher committee, will discuss exchanges of information and expertise, training programmes, raising the standard of efficiency in construction work, holding workshops for training as well as dealing with housing issues, unorganised building operations, the employment of locally produced building materials and emigration of citizens from the rural to urban regions in the two countries, according to an official from the Housing Corporation where the meetings are to take place.

He said that the two sides will also examine legislations concerning housing and construction projects in the two countries. Yousef Hiyasat will lead Jordan's delegation to the meeting. The Syrian team will be taken on tours of Jordanian housing schemes carried out by the Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Corporation as well as road projects.

Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in agriculture was meanwhile reviewed at a meeting held here Sunday by Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat and Syria's Ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh.

The ambassador conveyed to Arabyat an invitation by Syrian Agriculture Minister Mohammad Ghabash to visit Syria.

Fast mail delivery expected to expand

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fast mail delivery system introduced by the post office in Jordan in 1986 now includes Zarqa in addition to Amman and the service is expected to expand northward to reach Irbid as a next step, according to Dr. Abdullah Al Jazi director general of the Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation.

"The central post office in Zarqa Sunday started fast mail delivery operations benefitting companies, organisations and individuals," said Al Jazi.

"When first introduced some five years ago, this kind of service was conducted through the central post office in Amman, but it was later expanded to other parts of the city and Jordan is now connected with 27 Arab and foreign countries," Al Jazi added.

He said that mail senders can have letters and other post materials reach their destinations very fast, much faster than the normal postal services. "The cost of sending mail by this service, he

said is far below the rates offered by the private companies which carry out similar services," Al Jazi added.

Last year, he said, the fast mail delivery system in Jordan handled more than 60,000 letters and postal dispatches which is a good indicator of the prospect of the system.

The corporation, Dr. Jazi pointed out, is determined to expand still further the fast mail delivery network to include four additional countries before the end of 1990.

Jazi named the present countries linked to Jordan through the fast mail delivery system as follows: Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, West Germany, Greece, Holland, Japan, Cyprus, Austria, Switzerland, Turkey, Portugal, China, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Taiwan.

King congratulates France

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Bastille Day — the anniversary of the French Revolution.

In his cable, King Hussein expressed appreciation to "the pioneering role played by France in promoting the message of freedom, equality and brotherhood, and noted its efforts in uniting Europe, thus turning it into a force of stability, progress and cooperation in the world over."

The King also noted "the unique relations between Jordan and France" and voiced hope for increased cooperation to achieve durable and just peace in the Middle East region. The King wished the French president continued good health and happiness and the French people further progress and prosperity.

Conference to review poultry, egg industry in the Arab World

By Sahar Qara'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prospects for developing the poultry industry as part of the Arab World's ongoing efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in foods, are the focus of a conference which opens in Amman today, Monday 16 July.

Organised by the Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) in cooperation with several other institutions, the four-day conference, which will also include an exhibition, comes against a background of "the growing importance of poultry and egg production sector which links agriculture, industry and the Arab people's food needs," said Jack Khayyat, head of the regional office of the AFFI. "Poultry and egg production is one of the safety valves which contribute to achieving self-sufficiency in meat in the Arab World." Khayyat told a press conference Sunday.

The seminar will seek to evaluate the following, Khayyat said:

- The poultry and egg industry in the Arab World;
- The Arab World's needs until the year 2005;
- Present and future production capacities;
- Quality control standards;
- The inter-Arab cooperation for self-sufficiency and the means to reach this end, and evaluation of the technological procedures used;
- Qualitative and quantitative needs of poultry feed.

Khayyat stressed on the need to be open under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Hussein. In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, the conference will hold seven specialised working sessions classified into five categories representing studies prepared by the preparatory committee of the conference, Arab govern-

ment sector, Arab organisations, companies and syndicates, international organisations and world authorities and Arab international experts.

Mohamed Zeitoun, a member of the preparatory committee and representative of the Ministry of Supply, pointed out that "the Jordanian government welcomed holding the conference in Amman in the light of the great importance of the poultry and egg sector in the country and because it will provide Jordan with the opportunity to acquaint Arab countries with its developed poultry industry and to announce its readiness to supply Arab countries with its products at competitive prices so as to lessen or stop importing these products from Western countries."

Explaining the reasons for chicken shortage phenomenon which prevailed in the Kingdom in the past, Khayyat said this phenomenon would be attributed to many factors such as: "the shortage in red meat which raised the demand on chicken, devaluation of the dinar which prompted feed importers to decrease their imports, the delay in fixing new prices to suit the production input by the Ministry of Supply."

However, Khayyat confirmed that "the situation is different now and there is an oversupply in chicken products which enables Jordan to be the main exporter to the Arab World." In other words "Jordan could be the Holland of the Arab World" according to Khayyat.

WHO raises concern over AIDS threat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) Sunday opened a five-day meeting here to discuss the danger of the killer disease AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in the Mediterranean zone and said that the number of AIDS victims, though limited at present, was growing fast.

WHO representative Mohammad Wahdat told the opening session that public awareness is the most effective weapon for combatting the disease and stem-

ming its spread around the world.

Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben opened the meetings, stressing dangers inherent in the spread of the disease in the Mediterranean zone and said that the number of AIDS victims, though limited at present, was growing fast.

Health teams with sufficient information can be employed to help spread awareness among members of the public as to the dangers related to AIDS and ways to avoid the killer disease.

The Health Ministry said that since the mid 1980s the blood bank in Jordan has banned the importation of blood and hospitals have been relying on locally donated blood for operations.

Jordan to host IOJ meeting

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday welcomed a decision by the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) to hold a meeting for its executive committee in Amman in October this year, and said this would offer an opportunity to journalists from around the world to conduct a closer study of Jordan and its development in various fields.

Journalists taking part in the coming meeting will also have the chance to review the Arab issues and the sufferings of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories at the hands of Israel's inhuman practices, said the Prime Minister at a meeting with IOJ Secretary-General Mazen Al Husseini and his accompanying delegation in the presence of Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin.

Badran listened to Husseini's briefing on the organisation's activities and programmes in the

information and media fields. He said that 260,000 journalists from around the world are members of the Prague-based organisation.

Husseini also briefed the Prime Minister on the ongoing preparations for the executive committee meeting in Amman scheduled between Oct. 13-16.

Husseini also hailed the democratisation process in Jordan which, he said, has opened the way for free expression in the press; he voiced the IOJ's gratefulness to the government for allowing it to hold meetings in Amman.

Husseini also expected to denounce the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine as designed to threaten the existence of the Arab Nation.

According to Husseini who addressed the press conference, the IOJ represents 260,000 journalists from 120 countries grouped in 110 associations including Jordan. "We did not select Jordan as a venue for the October meeting at random, but rather in support of this country's democratisation process and because of the proximity of Amman to the Palestinian land," Husseini pointed out.

He said that 150 journalists

taking part in the meeting will have a good chance here to study the situation in the occupied Arab lands and to investigate Israel's inhuman practices in view of Jordan's closeness to the Palestinian land.

"By holding the committee meeting in Amman, the IOJ will be expressing its total support for Jordan's democratic process and the PLO which is striving to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil," Husseini said.

"The IOJ is committed to defend the cause of journalists anywhere in the world regardless of their political and ideological affiliations," he said.

"Among people killed as a result of persecution in their own countries in 1989 there were 100 journalists including those of the occupied Arab territories who died under torture at the hands of the Israeli authorities," Husseini pointed out.

The IOJ, he said, has submitted reports about all these cases to the U.N. Human Rights Commission so that the United Nations

can ensure safety and protection to media people and the journalists from all countries of the world.

Husseini said that the IOJ will extend an invitation to the Palestinian journalists to attend the Amman meeting and present a detailed report on the ordeal of the Palestinian journalists at the hands of the Israeli authorities.

Following the assassination of seven Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories last April, the organisation dispatched a team to the occupied lands to investigate the incident and the team's report will be read out to the October meeting, he said.

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Famous Syrian poet dies



Omar Abu Rishesh

AMMAN (J.T.) — Renowned Syrian poet Omar Abu Rishesh died Sunday at the age of 80. Abu Rishesh was born in Manbeh, in Aleppo Governorate, in 1910 to a rich Syrian family.

He studied at the American University of Beirut and was later sent by his father to London to learn the art of textiles and weaving in order to run his father's business. Upon return he started writing poetry.

Abu Rishesh held several government posts including director of the National Syrian Library in Aleppo, plenipotentiary ambassador in Brazil and ambassador in New Delhi.

The late poet reflected the events his country and the Arab

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King thanks Saudi monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, in reply to his cable of condolences over the death of some Jordanian pilgrims in the Mietsem tunnel incident, which took place during the first day of Eid Al Adha. King Hussein said the Saudi efforts aimed at providing comfort and security to all pilgrims to Mecca will remain the object of the pride in the whole Muslim World. He noted that the incident was caused by fate and divine decree, which "we had no power over."

King receives Pakistani Islamic judge

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received the visiting Pakistani Chief Islamic Justice Jamal Mohammad Khan. The audience was attended by Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan. Also Sunday, Justice Minister Yousef Mabdaieh received Sheikh Khan and discussed with him scopes of bilateral cooperation in the fields of Islamic jurisprudence and legal legislations. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Mheilan and senior ministry officials.

Jordan, Egypt sign trade protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran and Director of the External Trade at the Egyptian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade Fakhruddin Abu Al Izz Sunday signed a commercial and economic cooperation protocol. The protocol, which forms a supplement to commercial and economic agreement in force in the two countries calls for enhancing commercial and economic relations and broadening scopes of economic and trade activities to reach the \$250 million target of commercial exchange volume. This volume will be achieved jointly in the years 1990 and 1991 through the package deal.

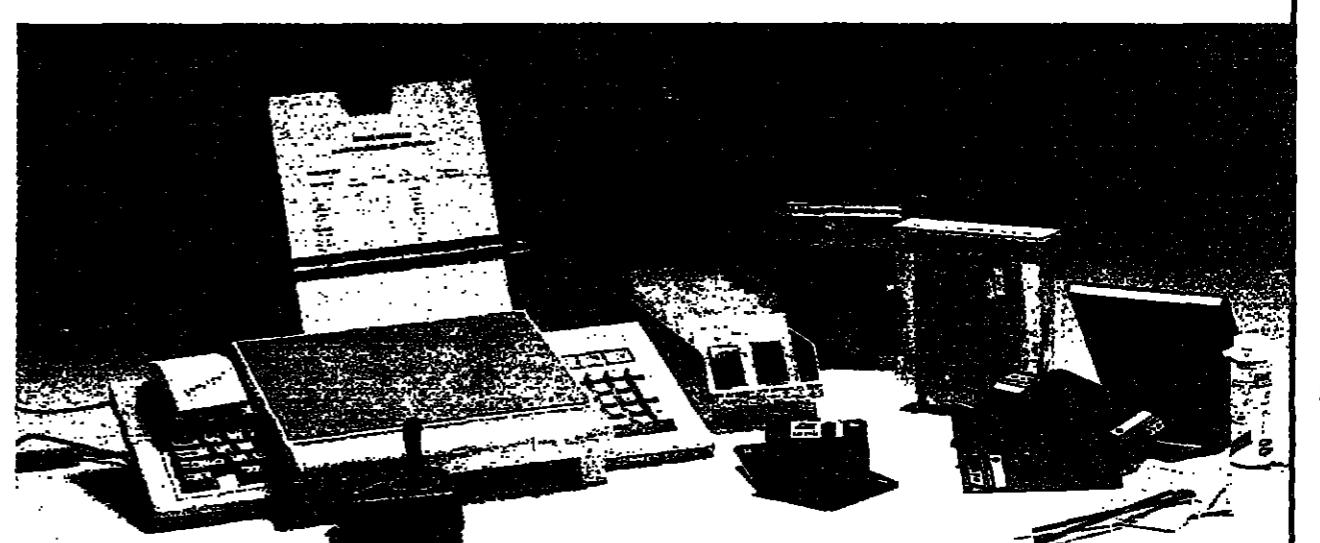
ACC ministers to discuss trade ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of trade, industry and supply in the four-member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will meet here Wednesday to study proposals for inter-ACC trade, including a collective package deal and defining a number of commodities exempted from customs duties. The ministers will also discuss prospects of setting up commercial weeks in the four ACC countries. The ACC central bank governors will also meet Monday to discuss a working paper on setting up an inter-ACC bank, to help achieve economic integration and two other working papers on arrangements for settlement of payments and promoting commercial exchange.

Jordan, Britain discuss agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Sam Simnas' Sunday discussed with the British ambassador to Jordan scopes of cooperation in the agricultural field. Simnas' made suggestions for enhancing Jordanian-British cooperation in the agricultural field, including the production of apple saplings and sending a number of ministry officials to pursue their higher education in the various agricultural fields in Britain.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibitions of ceramics, paintings by Gastone Primon at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Jordan — Mysteries and Shadows" by Omari student Mohammed Bin Mahdi Bin Jawad at Yarmouk University.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Nabatean Bowl Making" by Jim Mason and Dr. Khatriya 'Amar at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Sauvage et Beau" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Al Yarmouk Group for Arabic Music (7:30-9:00 p.m.) and the Azerbaijan State Ballet (9:30-11:30 p.m.) at the South Theatre.
- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yezgolay folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Poetry and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
- ★ Concert by Gary Burton Jazz Quintet at Artemis Steps (9:30 - 11:00 p.m.)

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times

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Ready for new era

A consensus is emerging in the international community, notably in the West, which says that not only the Soviet Union has lost its status as a superpower in the wake of the rapid changes that occurred within it and its camp but that also the U.S. is projected to lose that prestigious rank as well in the course of this decade. Experts from all walks of life are discerning a trend in which the U.S. is seen losing ground in most important spheres of human behaviour and achievement, except perhaps in military matters. And as military considerations on a global scale are diminishing in importance, the U.S. is up against tremendous competition from other countries and regions of the world. One look at the U.S. economy with its faltering currency and heavy indebtedness would reveal that the U.S. is in deep trouble as far as the future is concerned. After enjoying decades of prosperity and status of being the biggest creditor nation in the world, the U.S. is now the biggest debtor nation and suffering from chronic unbalanced budgets on a scale that would scare any nation of the world. Not only that, but the U.S. technological edge has eroded so much that it can hardly compete with smaller countries in the auto industry and computer technology. Very soon United Europe, and Japan, can produce many products including aviation products which till now the U.S. has monopolised to its total advantage. Accordingly the centres of power could soon be expected to shift from Washington to other capitals just as they have shifted from Moscow lately. In this sense, history is simply repeating itself.

In this rapidly changing world, where major players are continuing to move upwards or downwards as well as sideways, we in the Arab World have a duty to pose and think hard of where our future lies. It is not enough for a handful of our intellectuals to write newspaper articles, and for our politicians to be too absorbed in the reality of today's situation. There is a real need to do more, now and urgently. Think tanks have to be established and, where they exist, activated. Everybody with a contribution to make has to be given the chance to get involved in understanding and analysing our past, present and future aspirations. More importantly, Arab politics and institutions have to mature and expand sufficiently to first adapt to the changing realities and then to exert the maximum influence on, and have the greatest input into, the parameters that are shaping our world's new order.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

It is premature to know the aims of Moscow's moves and diplomatic contacts with the Arab League as has just been announced, although it is understood that the topic is the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said that whatever Moscow's intentions are the Arabs still hope that the Soviet Union will take steps to abort Israel's drive to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land in Palestine. Needless to say that the migration of Jews to Palestine can only encourage the Israelis to remain in the occupied Arab lands, pursuing their inhuman practices against the Palestinian people, it added. Had the emigration process of Jews from the Soviet Union been linked to a permanent solution to the Palestine issue, Israel would have found itself face to face with the only course, which is peace with its neighbours, succumbing to the world community's will and responding to calls for recognising the Palestinian people's rights, the paper said. The Arabs are not asking Moscow to place Arab nation's interests above those of the Soviet Union, but rather a balanced policy regarding the situation in our region, the paper added. It said that the Arabs want to make it clear to Moscow that the immigration is bound to bring into Palestine manpower enabling Israel to maintain its occupation of Arab land adhering to its intransigence with regard to peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily calls on the government to issue defined instructions about the new 10 per cent added tax collected for the benefit of civil defence operations. Nazib says that the mere issuing of the order to insurance companies to collect the extra tax is bound to cause some complications and disputes between the insured and the insurance companies, since the latter would want to exact the whole tax from the insured without shouldering their own share. Needless to say that such procedure would adversely affect the interests of the insured who are paying all forms of taxes and fees to the government, sacrificing a large part of their income at a time when the country is suffering from soaring prices and a high cost of living, the writer notes. He says that the insurance companies themselves are not happy about the new tax and have submitted a memorandum to the government, complaining that the tax would mean imposing extra financial burden on them, and negatively affecting their own interests. The writer calls on the concerned authorities, especially the ministries of industry, trade and finance, to re-examine the whole situation and come up with a formula that would not put the whole burden on the individual citizens nor complicate matters for the insurance companies and the government offices.

Saw Al Shaab daily expressed the Arab countries' delight over the reconciliation between Egypt and Syria, seen in a visit to Egypt by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The paper said that the talks in Alexandria are bound to cover the peace process in the Middle East which is the concern of all Arabs, and Syrian-Iraqi relations which the Arabs believe should be strengthened before the coming Arab summit in Cairo. The Arab masses are pained to see Syria and Iraq at loggerheads at a time when the Zionist enemy is gaining ground, and making gains at the expense of Arab divisions benefiting from world developments and political changes, said the paper. The changes and developments which prompted the presidents of Egypt and Syria to meet and examine the situation in the Middle East, said the paper, should be cause enough for a similar summit between Syria and Iraq specially as Iraq is now mending fences with Iran — Syria's ally — and approaching the path of peace with greater confidence.

Weekly political pulse

The cracks in the communist dam are there, but there must be something the West can do

THE abrupt resignation of Boris Yeltsin, the elected leader of the Russian Republic, from the Soviet Communist Party was not only a bombshell that stunned the entire world, but also a harbinger of accelerated political developments in the Soviet Union. There is no doubt now that the forces of liberalism that were unleashed by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are taking the country swiftly towards pluralism and not just political and economic reforms of the communist order the Soviet Union. What has occurred in the rest of the Warsaw Pact countries is finally dawning on the Soviet Union as well and

there is no turning back. The visibly shaken Gorbachev at the announcement by Yeltsin of his resignation from the communist order tells it all. The cracks in the communist dam have occurred and the blood of swift political and economic changes across the political and economic landscapes of the Soviet Union has obviously gotten out of control. The big question now is whether Gorbachev who made all these changes possible in the first place can still ride the tiger that he ushered into the Soviet system. Unfortunately the West has forsaken the Soviet leader by refusing to offer a helping hand to the

sailing Soviet economy which ensued from the reforms and the adjustments that Gorbachev introduced to his country. It seems that the West sees Gorbachev as a transitory leader who served his role well as a catalyst and now he is dispensable. Yet the communist order in the Soviet Union is almost a century old and it cannot be dismissed as yet as a finished order. The Soviet Union is thus projected to experience prolonged chaos and disorder before the dust settles down. This internal strife in the Soviet Union does not augur well to international stability. There must be something that the international community

can do for the Soviet Union and not remain as a spectator to the unfolding of events. Hopefully this could change before it is too late and the rich industrial countries should be the first to shoulder their responsibilities towards Moscow.

It is comforting to discern that united Germany is rallying behind the Soviet Union in its dire difficulties and hardships. Chancellor Kohl made a desperate effort to have the seven Western industrial nations extend a genuine helping hand to the Soviet Union when they held their summit in Houston last week. But such efforts, joined also by France and

Canada, fell on deaf ears and at the end of the G-7 deliberations the issue of helping the Soviet Union was left without a collective verdict. Still Bonn is determined to go ahead with its well thought out policy to assist the Soviet Union. Perhaps Bonn is thinking of establishing bridges with Moscow and cultivate early relations with it to expedite the unification of Germany and the ultimate withdrawal of Soviet troops from "East Germany." From an economic point of view, the Soviet Union offers a huge market for Germany's industries and high-tech facilities that is waiting to be tapped in the wake of Gorbachev's reforms. Whatever the reasons and motives of Bonn in developing a head start on the Western relations with Moscow, Bonn is obviously casting a vote of confidence in the Soviet Leader's abilities to withstand all the pressures being applied on him from the far right and far left in his country. Clearly Germany is thinking of geo-political considerations in coming to rescue of troubled Moscow. Being close neighbours, Germany and the Soviet Union are destined to wage new and lasting relationships for their own mutual interests and Chancellor Kohl is showing farsightedness and wisdom.

Cuba debates reform, but how far can it go?

By Paesel Fletcher
Reuters

HAVANA — A debate on Cuba's political and economic future launched by its Communist leadership is raising hopes of reform on the Caribbean Island.

But the question on everybody's mind is: how far can it go?

The ruling Communist Party led by 63-year-old President Fidel Castro has thrown open for public discussion flaws and weaknesses in Cuba's one-party system and socialist economy.

But the leadership is stopping well short of following former Communist allies in Eastern Europe down the path towards Western capitalism or multi-party politics.

"We are going to perfect our socialism," Juan Escalona, head of the country's national assembly and a Senior figure in the Communist Party hierarchy, told Reuters.

He portrayed the national debate, officially described as a form of democratic consultation, as a fight for survival.

"We are putting at stake the existence itself of the revolution," Escalona said, referring to the 30 years of socialism introduced following the 1959 revolution.

Cuba, stranded by the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and threatened with the possible disruption of its trade and aid lifeline with the Soviet Union, faces mounting pressure to change.

The government's tough line against political opponents in recent months appears to reinforce these limits.

At a court hearing last month, Cuba's state prosecutor sought prison terms of 10 to 12 years for a group of seven dissidents accused of conspiracy and rebellion.

The seven, members of the Democratic Integration Movement which proposed changing the country's constitution to introduce multi-party politics and a market economy, await final sentencing.

At least eight other dissidents arrested in March are awaiting trial accused of counterrevolution or trying to change the socialist system.

A public discussion document

first released in March pledges to root out evils in the country's socialism, such as inefficiency, overmanning, bureaucracy and dogmatism. It calls on Cubans to say openly what they think.

Billboards reading "what can you contribute? Your opinion," have gone up in Havana as part of a campaign to encourage discussion and overcome scepticism about the debate.

While calling for frankness from the public, the party leadership has been careful to set the political limits of the debate within the existing Communist system.

Justifying this, senior officials like Escalona say a long-standing threat of invasion by the United States, increased by the U.S. invasion of Panama last December, leaves no room for any internal challenge to the existing political framework.

"At this moment in history, living with the permanent threat from our northern neighbours, do you really think we can open the door to this kind of discrepancy?" Escalona asked.

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A public discussion document



Israelis don't want to look in mirror

By Jonathan Karp
Reuters

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian uprising that has raged on Israel's doorstep for 31 months looks less violent on Israeli television than on foreign screens.

"We broadcast reports we can sleep with. We cover events in our backyard, that take place on roads we travel on. This necessitates a different approach," Israel Television (ITV) Reporter Mordechai Kirshenbaum admitted he was jealous at times of foreign press coverage.

He recalled a crew from the American television network CBS spent three days with a militant underground Palestinian group in the West Bank city of Nablus.

"It was one of the most impressive stories during the intifada," he said, "but as an Israeli I am not able to spend the night with this gang and watch their marches with knives and axes while the soldiers patrolling the streets there is my son."

Kirshenbaum said those feelings could not justify ignoring the uprising and defended

Israel television's record, noting it had bought and screened the CBS story.

Government pressure has more impact on television, state-run Israel radio and armed forces radio than on independent newspapers.

ITV's exclusive reports, such as troop actions and interviews with captured Palestinian guerrillas, have appeared to carry a government beat.

Some conference participants accused the Israeli press of shunning the violence in which Israelis have killed at least 680 Palestinians. Some 46 Jews and more than 200 suspected Arab collaborators have also died.

But Yirmiyahu Yovel, a philosophy professor and chairman of the Spinoza Institute which sponsored the three-day conference, said both the local and foreign portrayal of the revolt against 23 years of Israeli military rule was distorted.

"The foreign press con-

tributes too much on violence because that's what sells, while we see less violence than there is," Yovel told Reuters.

Instead of political interference, he blamed "social regression" by a public that cannot reconcile its self-image as a democratic country with the realities of martial law.

"Israelis don't want to see themselves in this crooked mirror, but it is partially true. So the public transmits a message to the media — leave us alone."

"Maybe the media have responded to this more than government pressure," he said.

Journalist Romi Vardi, who broke censorship in 1984 to reveal that two Arab bus hijackers had been killed by Israeli security forces after their capture, feared the same story today would pass unnoticed.

"As much as people wanted to know then, they do not want to know now," she said.

Petra Bank employees

(Continued from page 1)

happened to his children."

Besides being uncertain about where their future lies after the liquidation of the bank, many were very emotional about having to leave the bank itself. The main office was stagnant on Sunday, and the employees appeared to be in an overwhelming state of depression as they prepared the clients' cards to be transferred to the Housing Bank.

One branch manager said that she was not worried about finding herself another similar job, but worried about the "lower-ranking employees finding employment."

According to Aghabi, almost all the employees are in debt with school bills to pay and no way to pay back after being laid off, adding that there was a large number of women who are the sole supporters of their families."

Abu Rami, who receives a JD 200 salary, said he has five children and owes JD 14,000.

Abu Fathi, the guard at the Petra Bank main offices, said he has eleven months to feed, and his colleagues said that he has been quiet since the ESC decision last week, "worried about what will

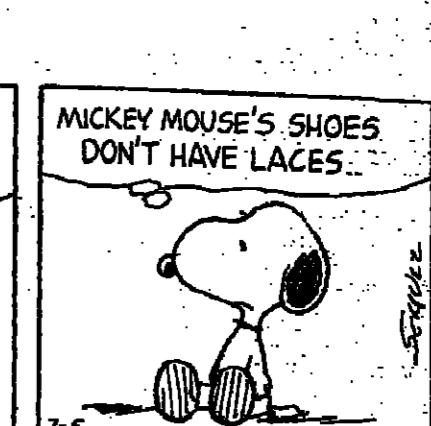
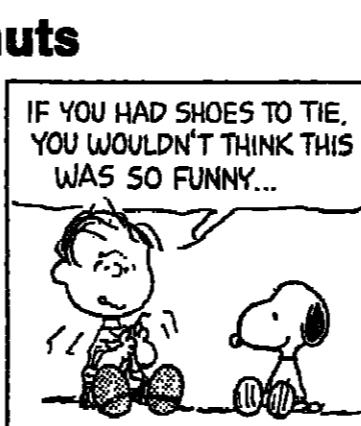
happen to his children."

Reports that some cases related to the violent anti-Israeli protests which hit Jordan in May this year were sent to martial law courts have been dismissed as totally groundless by senior officials. Fifteen people detained during and after the violence have been referred to respective civil courts for trial, according to a senior official at the Public Security Department (PSD). The sentence most of them face, according to legal sources, is six to six months in prison and a maximum fine of JD 50.

The prosecutor-general's office is braced for a flood of cases to be transferred to it by the martial law authorities. "Most of these cases were frozen along with the government move to freeze martial law provisions early this year," said an official. "Now, the authorities are



Peanuts



Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 16, 1996 5

Generous to Earth but also profitable

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The theme of this summer's gift-giving season in Japan is not glamour or luxury but ecology.

"Gifts generous to the earth," says a sign in a forest of shelves in the Takashimaya department store in Tokyo.

July is when the Japanese shop for gifts for parents, teachers, the boss and clients, and this year it is clear that concern for the environment will show in many presents, large and small.

Takashimaya, Japan's oldest department store, displayed ecologically sound items ranging from 100-per-cent-pulp kitchen sponges at 100 yen (66 cents) to recycled-paper stationery sets at 3,000 yen (\$20).

Some of the items have eco-mark stickers, showing the products were judged pollution-free by the governmental Japan Environmental Association.

The Mitsukoshi Ltd. chain of department stores trumpets the

theme of "the beautiful earth" and features eco-mark goods in its midsummer gift campaign, which it hopes will yield sales of 14 billion yen (\$93 million).

Brochures at Mitsukoshi's Ginza branch suggest consumers buy more eco-mark goods.

"We are not expecting any immediate feedback from our campaign, but we should continue to introduce such products," says Kiyoshi Hasegawa, Mitsukoshi spokesman. "What we stores can do is to provide consumers opportunities to think about the environment."

Japan also has seen the recent introduction of a less-polluting beer can — no throw-away pull tab — and a mutual fund based on environmental concerns.

Nomura Securities Co., Japan's biggest stockbroking company, recently introduced its earth environment fund, with stocks of companies related to environmental products.

Environmentalists say companies are using ecology themes

to improve their images, but welcomed the moves as helping to raise public awareness.

"Consumers should realise they can somehow live without harming the environment," says Kyoko Kato, a spokeswoman for the Japan Environment Association. "The current situation should be the other way around. Consumers should be the one taking the initiative."

Since the association started issuing the eco-mark last year, it has approved 513 items in 22 categories as ecologically sound. But it has no scientific criteria to measure a product's impact on the environment.

Yoko Tomiyama, acting director of the Japan Consumer Union, said she felt a better service would be to identify products that are harmful to the environment.

"Unless the safety of eco-marked products is guaranteed, it's just nonsense to introduce easy alternatives," Tomiyama said. "But many people just don't care."

Shoppers weren't paying much attention to the 100-per-cent-pulp kitchen sponges or plastic trash bags said to release no toxic gases when burned. But retailers said that items promoted on pro-earth themes, such as globes and telescopes, were selling well.

If consumers were sending a mixed signal, many Japanese companies have come to feel obliged to show a positive response to environmental concerns.

Also, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has long encouraged development of technology for controlling pollution and maximising energy efficiency.

"It's no longer socially acceptable if we care about nothing but productivity and sales," said Kenji Yokomizo, spokesman for Suntory, Japan's major brewer.

Suntory recently opened a restaurant called "The Earth" in Tokyo, featuring a new beer, also called The Earth, in a can with the eco-marked stay-on tab — to

prevent beer drinkers from spreading can tabs all over the place — the first of its kind here.

The restaurant features live music and food from Brazil, a country suffering from destruction of tropical forests, and has been so popular that people wait hours to enter the pink-coloured dome designed to look like a hemisphere of the earth.

Suntory says manufacturing cans with stay-on tabs required extra spending for new equipment.

Kato of Japan Environment Association said it has suggested three more eco-mark categories, including recyclable bottles and cans, but no one has applied.

To register for the eco-mark, manufacturers should pay the association a fee ranging from 40,000 yen (\$254) to 100,000 yen (\$6,623) based on the price of each product.

"Companies should be proud to have eco-marks on their products, and I hope more companies will apply," she said.

Jordan Times
Telephone 667171/6

The other side of the French coin

By Elaine Ganley
The Associated Press

PARIS — Not far from Satan's Alley and a dead-end street called God, 48 families live in a public square, victims of a war on squatters waged by a city of plenty with little room for its poor.

Since March 15, when a winter moratorium on evictions ended, riot police have cleared dozens of homes in pre-dawn raids.

The evictions brought a spate of denunciations, demonstrations and charges that the city of Paris, where housing prices are soaring, is trying to push the poor out of town.

"We're miserable here because we have nothing," said Assa Kan, a 30-year-old mother of six from Mali, among 150 people living under tents at the Place De La Reunion since May 2.

"At night, it's really cold," she said, caressing the chapped cheeks of her 4-month-old daughter. "All the children are sick."

The square holds the largest of three camps set up recently by evicted squatters or renters turned out of condemned buildings. Nine families camp at the foot of Sacre Coeur, the Montmartre Basilica, and six live outside a local city office.

City officials, announcing their spring offensive, said squatting had reached "inadmissible" proportions.

"The city is duty-bound to solve this problem," said Jean Tiberi, deputy to Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac. Evictions are "the only way to stop the multiplication of squatters."

Within days, 300 people — nearly half of them children — were homeless.

"These people had a right to squat," said Abbe Pierre, a bearded Roman Catholic cleric who is France's premier champion of the needy. "When a man is hungry, he has the right to take bread from the baker."

Abbe Pierre's humanitarian organisation, the Emmaus Community, provided tents for the evicted.

At the Place De La Reunion, ringed with rosebushes and dotted with Orange and blue tents, a siege mentality prevails. Amenities are limited to one spigot of running water, three outdoor

commodes and intermittent lighting at night via an electric wire from a nearby cafe. One tent serves as a makeshift kitchen.

Mrs. Kan and others said they would remain until the city provided a suitable alternative.

"We are confronted with the unacceptable," Bertrand Main, deputy chief of the League of Human Rights, at a news conference. "Demands for rehousing are met with a wall of silence, incomprehension and, sometimes, contempt."

Officials say the number of buildings occupied by squatters, mainly African, has quintupled in three years, from 36 to 187. They admit that 41 of the 187 buildings are empty moderate rent housing complexes. About 50,000 people are on the priority waiting list for these buildings, officials say.

The housing debate comes amid skyrocketing real estate prices and charges that speculation is transforming Paris into a ghetto for the elite.

President Francois Mitterrand recently denounced those "who enrich themselves while sleeping" because they own "a good piece of land or a nice apartment."

"Prices have increased so fast," the president said, "that they are starting to exclude the possibility of suitable lodging for senior executives with salaries that can reach 50,000 francs (about \$3,700) per month."

Frederica Koch and Amina Amara are among those keeping a vigil in solidarity with the homeless at Place De La Reunion.

Ms. Koch, evicted in 1989 from the rent-controlled apartment where she lived for 25 years, is, at 58, a squatter. She lost her job as a clothes cutter during a 10-year battle to keep her home.

Ms. Amara, a single mother with five children, has been on a waiting list for low-rent apartment for 15 years. Evicted from one building, she and her two youngest children spent a year in a furnished hotel, then two months in restaurant basement before squatting anew since December.

"This problem is too big for us," said Berthima Tembely, an immigrant from Senegal who was visiting the square as a gesture of solidarity. "The rich people are treating us like dogs. You have to fight to live in this world."

Paris proposed temporary housing for the evicted in buildings scheduled for demolition in St. Denis, a poor northern suburb. Officials there objected.

"We don't have a money problem in Paris. We have a problem of land," said Tiberi, explaining the housing shortage on French radio.

"For moral reasons ... we cannot accept the principle of rehousing squatters," Tiberi added, saying squatters were robbing legal occupants of apartment

space.

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The price of fame

By Carl Hilliard
Associated Press

DENVER — To hear Neil Bush tell it, he's "just a Denver guy trying to make a living and raise a family," and he's bewildered and angry at the attention he's receiving.

The 35-year-old slim, tanned, blond father of three children epitomises the enterprising businessman who came to Colorado in the early 1980s to get rich in the oil business. He is also the son of U.S. President George Bush.

"We lived month to month, begged for money from time to time, and our business was relatively dormant," Neil Bush recalls. But he relishes that time in his life.

Now, he faces a public disciplinary hearing before federal regulators in September on his role as a director of the bankrupt Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan. Some democrats are pushing for a special prosecutor to examine the case. The president is a republican.

"Neil Bush has been accused of conflict of interest and failure to disclose ties to men who received loans from Silverado. He has said he has nothing wrong.

The president has defended his son's "honour" and integrity but has promised to stay out of the investigation.

Neil Bush says he is enraged that democrats are making political hay out of his predicament.

"Neil Bush is — for the democrats, I'm the highest-profile guy they have to shoot at out there," he said in an interview last week.

He also expresses anger at what he calls "government mismanagement" in the way troubled savings institutions are being sold off.

Neil Bush played his most prominent role on the hot, steamy night of Aug. 17, 1988, at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans, when he delivered all of Colorado's delegates to help seal his father's nomination for president.

It was a heady moment for the third of George and Barbara Bush's four sons, and it led to

suggestions Neil Bush might have the stuff from which U.S. House or Senate candidates are made. The possibility had him shrugging and smiling and saying "maybe."

His job then, he told reporters, was to help his father's campaign. "I'd hate to be the only son to have lost his home state for his dad."

Dyslexic as a child, Bush practiced reading exercises until he was able to overcome his problem, his brother George recalled. He eventually earned undergraduate and master's in business from Tulane University.

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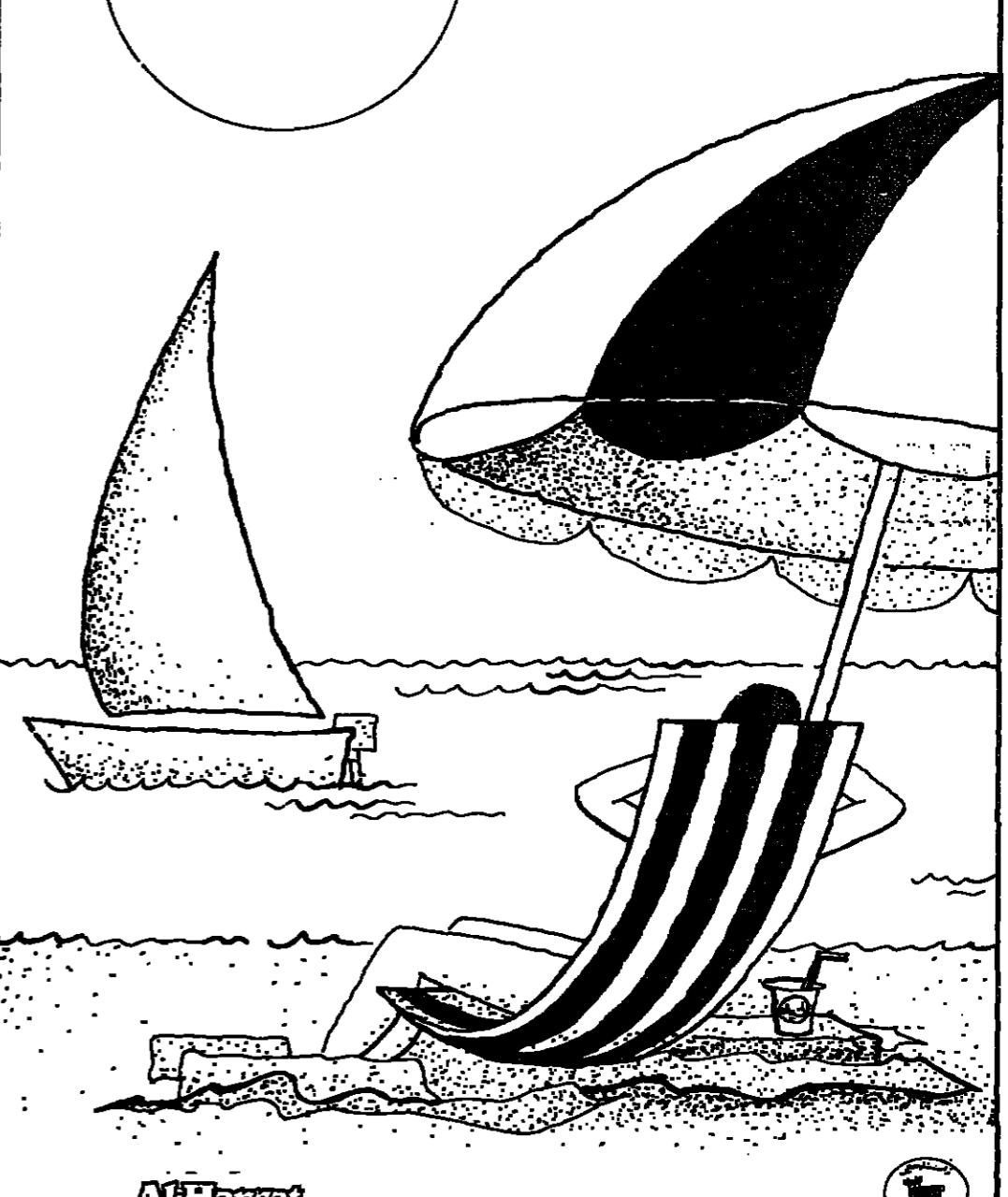
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Morocco clocks fastest time of year in 3,000 metres

Czech sets world javelin record at Bislett Games

OSLO (Agencies) — After being sidelined four months earlier this year with a serious back injury Jan Zelezny certainly didn't expect a world record so soon.

The 24-year-old Czechoslovakian javelin thrower regained the mark Saturday night with a toss of 89.66 metres at the 25th Bislett

Mobil IAAF Grand Prix track and field meet.

"I'm fit now, but I didn't think about world records before the (European) season started," said Zelezny.

After suffering the back injury Zelezny rested for four months and didn't get back into training until March.

"But I had to change my training," he said. "I couldn't lift any weights for example. But in a way it was good. The training didn't become so stereotype."

Zelezny, 24, a former world record holder, notched the longest throw in history in the sixth and final round of the competition.

Backley, who also competed in the meet, had set the previous world mark of 89.58 metres 12 days ago in the DN Galan Grand Prix meet in Stockholm, Sweden.

It was the third time this year that the javelin mark was shattered. Patrik Boden of Sweden set the first record of 89.10 metres in March at Austin, Texas, breaking Zelezny's mark set in 1987.

Backley finished second with 87.94 metres Saturday.

"I was quite pleased with my throwing," Backley said. "But this record is only temporary. If there had been another round I would have loved it."

It was the 49th world record set at the Bislett Stadium since 1924, but the first since 1986. Eight unofficial world records have also been set at the famous wooden stadium.

Joe Falcon of the United States proved his great potential by winning the "dream mile" just ahead of favoured Peter Elliott of Britain.

Falcon, 24, a middle distance standout with over a half dozen U.S. collegiate titles for the University of Arkansas, clocked 3 minutes, 49.31 seconds.

It was the best outdoor time of the season and less than two seconds off Steve Scott's U.S. record of 3:47.69 set here in 1982.

Elliott, who had the fastest times of the year in both the 800, 1,500 and the mile going into the race, was outkicked by Falcon and finished in 3:49.76.

Jens-Peter Herold of East Germany was third in 3:50.59.

Doina Melinte of Romania won the women's mile in 4:18.13 for another season best and just two and a half seconds off the world record.

Natalia Artimova was runner-up in 4:22.20 and Lynn Jennings of the United States, the world cross-country champion, was third in 4:24.14.

Mohamed Issangar of Morocco clocked the world's fastest time of the year in the 3,000 metres when he clocked 8:49.4 at Goteborg, Sweden, in 1975, broke one world record and one unofficial world mark at Bislett Stadium during his heydays in the 70s.

Teofilo Benito of Spain won the 1,500 Saturday in 3:37.50.

Ulf Timmermann of East Germany, a former world record holder, captured the shot put at 20.64 metres. Randy Barnes of the U.S., who broke Timmermann's record May 20 with a throw of 23.12 metres, withdrew because of injury.

Christine Wachtel and Sigmar Wodars of East Germany finished 1-2 in the women's 800. Wachtel, runner-up behind Wodars in both the 1987 world championships and the 1988 Olympics, was timed in 1:57.85.

Other winners included Johnny Gray of the United States in the 800 (1:44.64); Antonio Pettigrew, also of the United States, in the 400 (45.37); Sorin Matei of Romania in the high jump (2.32 metres), and Heike Drechsler of East Germany in the women's long jump (7.08 metres).

felt that I won it," said Lewis, undefeated in three 100-metre races this year. "The strong head wind was unfortunate because right now physically I think I'm the best I've ever been."

Earlier, veteran John Walker of New Zealand, who has retained top-class form for the longest ever period for a middle distance runner, said farewell to the Bislett crowd.

"This was my last race here," said Walker, who finished fourth in the 1,500 metres in 3 minutes, 38.38 seconds.

Walker, 38, who became the first sub 3:50-miler when he

clocked 2:49.4 at Goteborg, Sweden, in 1975, broke one world record and one unofficial

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His decision upset the Bislett Games organisers and International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) President Primo Nebiolo, who watched Saturday's meeting.

An IAAF official said the federation would consider imposing sanctions on athletes who broke agreements at the last minute.

"We would have to examine all the circumstances," the official said. "But what we have now are athletes demanding to be treated as professionals, then renege on professional obligations."

Lewis to make final European appearance

Meanwhile the Carl Lewis

show rolls into Barcelona Monday when the double Olympic champion makes his final European appearance before the Goodwill Games in Seattle.

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believe he is in the best shape of his life.

Lewis said he had felt a little heavy Saturday night because of all the travelling he has done recently.

"But I still won, that shows what condition I'm in," he said.

"The American will need to stay in top condition if he is going to repulse the challenges of his exciting young compatriots Leroy Burrell and Michael Johnson."

Race favourites American Greg Lemond and Pedro Delgado of Spain and Eric Breukink of the Netherlands came in together 34 seconds behind Lejarreta on a quiet day after the upheavals of Saturday.

Race leader Claudio Chiappucci of Italy retained a fragile hold on the yellow jersey when he lost 12 seconds on his main chasers. His lead over Breukink was cut to one minute 49 seconds.

Burrell will also compete in Barcelona before returning home and could meet Johnson in the 200 metres, confrontation which would put in severe danger Italian Pietro Mennea's 11-year-old world record of 19.72 seconds.

Johnson, fastest man over the 200 this year, pulled out of the Bislett Games, opting to run instead in Barcelona after Spanish promoters dangled a handsome financial inducement before him.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Yemen seeks funds to expand refinery

SANA (R) — Yemen is seeking financing of \$200 million to expand an oil refinery in Aden, the economic capital of the newly unified country, industry sources have said. The project would include building a pipeline network and gas plant, the sources told Reuters. The refinery now operates at only 30 per cent of its 160,000 barrel per day (b/d) capacity. President Ali Abdullah Saleh said last month the rundown refinery, built in the 1950s under British colonial rule, would be developed to supply domestic demand and exports. Aden was the capital of Marxist-ruled South Yemen, which united with the conservative-ruled North May 22. Officials expect a surge of oil exploration by Western companies in the south, where they were previously not allowed to operate. North Yemen's oil output was an estimated 185,000 b/d and South Yemen's 15,000 b/d before unification. Oil exports from the south are likely to start this year, industry sources say.

British inflation climbs to 9.8%

LONDON (R) — Britain's annual inflation rate edged steadily towards double digits in June, hitting an eight-year high of 9.8 per cent, official figures have showed. The increase in the retail price of index from 9.7 per cent in May was slightly below economists' forecasts of a 10 per cent rise in the summer. Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said last week inflation was taking longer than expected to bring down. But the underlying rate of inflation, excluding home loans and poll tax — a new levy to fund local government — fell from seven per cent in May to 6.9 per cent, the Central Statistical Office said. Britain uses the underlying rate when it compares its inflation with that of other European countries. Economists have said a reduction in the figure could hasten entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

EC lifts curbs on Sofia, Prague

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Commission has said it would end quota restrictions on imports into the European Community (EC) from Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia from Oct. 1. The move followed a decision last week by the "Group of 24" Western industrialised nations to extend their programme of aid for reforming East Bloc states to Bulgaria, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The commission, the Community's executive arm, said, "By opening up our markets we help the new democracies to help themselves." European commissioner for external relations Frans Andriessen said in a statement, adding that other countries should follow the Community's lead. A Commission spokesman said quotas would also be lifted on agricultural produce from Yugoslavia, whose industrial goods have not been subject to such restrictions since 1980. Checks on trade with East Germany were ended July 1. Quotas on Romanian exports would not be lifted until the Group of 24 decided to extend its help to that country and EC ministers approved a trade accord suspended after the violent repression of demonstrators in Bucharest.

Soviet Union will cut oil exports

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union, facing a lack of fuel for domestic use, will cut its oil exports by 140,000 barrels a day, according to Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov. Ryzhkov said the government decided in late June to cut its oil exports by seven million tonnes or 140,000 barrels a day. The cut in exports would apply to Socialist Bloc countries as well as Western nations, he said. "This will permit us to supply our agriculture," Ryzhkov said, adding that otherwise, fuel shortages would hurt the harvest. The Soviet Union is the world's largest oil producer, although production levels have been declining. The U.S. government estimated 1989 total Soviet oil output at 12.14 million barrels per day. Production has fallen because of the cost of maintaining output as well as ethnic unrest in oil producing regions such as Azerbaijan.

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Study warns Israel against government control of economy

TEL AVIV (R) — A right-wing Israeli think-tank has warned planners that failure to dismantle their state-dominated economy could undermine the immigration of Soviet Jews.

"Perestroika, which sweeps through Eastern Europe's stagnant socialist economies, continues to bypass Israel," said the report from the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies.

The research body, which gave Reuters an advance copy of the report to be released Monday, was critical of the Israeli government's traditional deep involvement in all aspects of the economy.

The report, "Reordering Priorities" calls for drastic cuts in government spending and a turn towards the private sector to spur economic growth and to absorb the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to immigrate.

"Freedom and opportunity in a buoyant private sector are more effective in integrating immigrants than government control and taxpayer-financed programmes," said the report.

The study, written by Alvin Rabushka of the Hoover Institution of Stanford University in the United States, said the government goal of five per cent annual economic growth would barely exceed population increase.

"Achieving five per cent growth amounts to not much more than continued stagnation," the report said. "Anything less would be catastrophic, threatening to destroy the historic opportunity Israel faces in massive Soviet Jewish immigration."

At present, the report said:

"The economy remains virtually stagnant, with little prospect for a return to the high growth of the country's early years."

E. German metalworkers win big wage increases

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German metalworkers have won a big pay rise and a one-year no-dismissals guarantee in a deal that averted a damaging strike but could slow the shake-out of inefficient former communist-run industry.

In the latest bout of labour unrest since a July 1 economic merger with West Germany, tens of thousands of shop workers demonstrated to demand protection against redundancies when state-owned retail chains are broken up and privatised.

Meanwhile a state agriculture organisation has said that many collective farms had stopped paying wages because they had run out of money.

Employers representing the

trustee authority in charge of selling off East German industry granted the I.G. Metal trade union an average 22.7 per cent pay raise backdated to July 1 with an extra five per cent from October.

They also agreed to cut the working week to 40 hours from 43.

"We cannot really afford this," said Lothar Heinemann, the employers' negotiator. "We'll have to work hard from now on."

Filipinos win largest U.S. maritime court award

TACOMA, Washington (R) — A U.S. judge has ordered a Japanese steamship company to pay 21 Filipino seamen at least \$40 million for coercing them into signing false contracts and receipts for wages they never received.

Lawyers said the judgment was the largest maritime wage award in U.S. history.

Richard Dodson, an attorney for the seamen, said U.S. district court judge Jack Tanner ordered the Inui Steamship Co. to pay between \$40 million and \$45.5 million in punitive and other damages.

Inui is wholly owned by Mitsui, Japan's second-largest shipping company.

Authorities, acting on a tip from a seaman's chaplain, in January seized one of the company's ships in Seattle. The sailors accused the firm in a civil suit of engaging in a double-bookkeeping scheme that defrauded them of promised wages.

The vessel, the Pine Forest, was carrying logs from the Pacific north-western United States to Japan.

Dodson said the scheme involved millions of dollars over a period of years, prompting the judge to impose the stiff penalty. He said the seamen had been told they would be paid \$1,000 a month each but received only \$200.

The scheme worked to the disadvantage of the American merchant fleet because the Japanese companies were able to save money on wages, lawyers for the plaintiffs said.

The Bundesbank is proud of its anti-inflationary record, and its efforts within Europe have been designed to give a pan-European monetary authority the same tough discipline and fierce inde-

Ridley comments reopen debate on Bundesbank role

FRANKFURT (R) — Intemperate comments by former British minister Nicholas Ridley last week have reopened the debate about the role of Europe's most powerful central bank.

Ridley, who resigned as minister for trade and industry Saturday, had accused the West German Bundesbank of dictating monetary policy to the rest of Europe. (See page 8).

He called European monetary union "a German racket to take over the whole of Europe," said the French were behaving like Germany's poodles and giving up sovereignty to the European Community was like surrendering to Adolf Hitler.

He withdrew the remarks, made in Britain's Spectator magazine, almost immediately after publication, but his views will continue to echo around Europe's financial centres.

The Bundesbank has never denied it dominates the European Monetary System (EMS), but is adamant it never chose such a role.

"A strong mark has served as an anchor of stability for other partner countries' economic and monetary policies in the EMS," Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl said in London this month.

This anchor role has been bestowed upon us, it is not ours by design, even though it was to be foreseen the mark would play a major role as an intervention currency and as a reference point for other currencies... in the system," he added.

The Bundesbank is proud of its anti-inflationary record, and its efforts within Europe have been designed to give a pan-European monetary authority the same tough discipline and fierce inde-

pendence from national or international authorities.

Never one to shun publicity, Poehl used a key speech in Paris earlier this year to outline his vision of an independent European central bank which, like the Bundesbank itself, would concentrate on fighting inflation.

Such a bank would contrast strongly with the Bank of France, among the least independent in Europe.

He criticised a British alternative route to European economic and monetary union in a major speech in London.

After the Bundesbank's first Council meeting in East Berlin, Poehl confidently told East Germans what it had to do to reform its ailing economy.

"Some East German companies make the wrong products for the wrong markets at costs that are not in line with the EMS.

Financial analysts say European Bundesbank comments are made by necessity rather than by design. A united Europe should come on the best possible terms, from the conservative Bundesbank's point of view.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 699238

UP THE MILITARY

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

Indian premier withdraws resignation

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh withdrew his offer to resign after conferring Sunday with leaders of his National Front Alliance, the group's chairman announced.

The chairman, N.T. Rama Rao, made the announcement to reporters. The prime minister's resignation offer had created a crisis for the minority government.

Singh's critics had suggested his resignation offer may have been a ploy to gain leverage in a dispute with the deputy prime minister, his chief rival.

Rao made the announcement after cabinet ministers and leaders of the five parties comprising the National Front convened at Singh's house.

The political tempest was touched off by a power struggle that pitted Singh and most other alliance leaders against Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. The issue was Lal's efforts to advance

his son's political career in Haryana state.

The son, Om Prakash Chautala, was reappointed chief minister of Haryana Thursday, two months after he was forced to resign when more than a dozen people were slain during a local election in his own constituency.

Three of Singh's cabinet ministers resigned Friday in protest of Chautala's reappointment. On Saturday, Singh offered his own resignation and six more ministers resigned.

Singh sent his offer of resignation to Sommappa Rayappa Bommai, president of the Janata Dal, the largest party in the National Front. Bommai rejected it, but Singh declined to withdraw the offer until the National Front

meeting Sunday afternoon.

The party's efforts to retain Singh as prime minister reinforced the view that the prime minister was not serious about resigning and was just trying to force a showdown with Devi Lal, his biggest foe in the government.

The Times of India said "even if the prime minister pulls off a coup and ensures his survival in office, developments since last Thursday will have shattered his image as a knight in shining armour."

The government "may manage to pull back, but the nation will have witnessed a sorry spectacle of chicanery, pettifogging and iniquity," the newspaper said Sunday in a front-page editorial.

The Independent Daily also published the results of an opinion poll conducted Saturday that went in Singh's favour.

The poll found that 60 per cent of the 2,000 people interviewed in five metropolises wanted Singh to stay as the prime minister. No margin of error was given.

Singh's resignation offer sent stock market prices plunging in informal trading Saturday. Stock markets were closed for the weekend, but the Times reported that share prices dropped 13 per cent.

Singh led his party in ousting Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party in last November's national elections.

Neither party got a majority of the seats in parliament, but the National Alliance formed the government on the strength of outside support by a right-wing Hindu fundamentalist party and left-wing parties. The common ground of the three groups was their dislike of the Congress Party.

Thatcher reportedly warned of German 'bullying'

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's advisers told her this year that Germans could be egotistical bullies but that on balance she should be "nice" to them, a British newspaper reported Sunday.

The Independent on Sunday reprinted what it said was a confidential minute of a briefing for Thatcher in March on what to expect from a unified Germany.

The document, said to have been written by Thatcher's foreign policy adviser, Charles Powell, listed German characteristics as "angst, aggressiveness, bullying, egotism, inferiority complex, sentimentality."

Germans, it said, were insensitive, self-obsessed and inclined to self-pity but they also wanted to be liked.

The report was published after Trade Secretary Nicholas Ridley resigned from Thatcher's cabinet Saturday in an uproar over fiercely anti-German remarks he made in a magazine interview last week.

Ridley had said proposed European monetary union was "a German racket to take over Europe" and giving up British sovereignty to the European Community was like surrendering to Adolf Hitler. He described the French as "poodles" of the Germans.

The Independent on Sunday said Powell's memo was an outspoken and startling document. His minute of the briefing said participants felt Germany was not likely to make any more territorial claims for the foreseeable future.

After failed efforts to reconcile the four warring Cambodian factions, agreement at a first big-five meeting to involve the United Nations had raised hopes of a swift end to the jungle war. That was in January.

Since then political obstacles have all but halted momentum and once again much depends on the mood of the Khmer Rouge, the country's notorious former rulers, who show little sign of wanting to give up their guerrilla war.

The Khmer Rouge, blamed by the West for more than one million deaths when they ruled Cambodia in the mid-1970s, is by far the strongest member of the guerrilla alliance headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

He leads one of the non-Communist factions in a loose coalition seeking to oust the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Talks by senior officials of the big-five states earlier this year produced a blueprint for potentially the biggest and most daring U.N. peace plan ever.

But Cambodia is proving to be more of a headache than anticipated for the U.N., and the four warring factions, which had been billed as the star attractions of the fifth round of talks Monday and Tuesday, will not be present.

"We did not invite them. We felt it was not the time to get them into the negotiations," a British diplomat said.

"I have no sense of moving forward but a sense of regression," said a U.S. official after preliminary talks in New York last week.

Last month a Cree Indian effectively buried the Meech Lake constitutional accord, which would have given Quebec special powers to preserve its French-speaking culture. Elijah Harper of Manitoba used procedural delays to prevent the provincial assembly from voting on the accord by the June 23 deadline.

Most Canadians had opposed the accord, but its collapse nonetheless shattered the country's view of itself as a tolerant nation willing to accommodate many different groups.

The accord's failure alienated Quebec and left many in the province more anxious than ever to break out of the 123-year-old Canadian confederation.

Many English-speaking Canadians are distressed that the country's dual culture, one of the key factors that distinguish Canada from its huge southern neighbour, may not survive because of petty prejudices and language conflicts.

Just as politicians like Liberal leader Jean Chretien urged Canadians to go on vacation and forget about politics, the simmering dispute over a stretch of pine forest in Oka erupted.

But they said their nation of 3.2 million remains a land of fear and that the government remains committed to Communism.

The government has done things only with words," a 29-year-old mother said on condition of anonymity. "For ideas, the desire of the people to live better, they haven't done a thing."

North Korea prepares for reunification fete

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea has begun extensive preparations for reunification of the two Koreas, including inviting South Korean dissidents to a major rally in a move that concerns leery officials across the border.

The North Korean government's official news service said a preparatory committee "for the peace and reunification of the country" met Saturday and discussed the selection of delegates, speeches and a document to be adopted by an August symposium on peace and reunification. The report was monitored Sunday in Tokyo.

The North Korean government is preparing to open a part of its border with South Korea, which condemns the plan as propaganda. Officials are worried that the previously announced reunification conference for youths is designed to encourage dissidents in the

South.

North Korea has designated Aug. 15 as the day when youths of both Koreas should meet at a border village for a major unification rally. It has invited South Korean dissidents and radical students to attend the rally.

The report called for the South Korea-based Coalition for National Democratic Movement and the National Council of Student Representatives, both radical dissident groups that Seoul officials believe are covertly linked with North Korea, and other organisations to participate despite opposition from Seoul.

Preparations for a "night of culture," production of poems and songs about reunification, and a "joint meeting" to be held during the festival also were discussed Saturday by committee Chairman Yun Gi Bok and others, the news agency said.

Filipino police kill army officers in drug bust

MANILA (AP) — Security officials shot and killed two senior military officers and seized \$10 million worth of heroin in a bizarre drug bust that some soldiers claim was a set-up.

The operation began late Tuesday when police and National Bureau of Investigation agents closed in on what they said was a major heroin sale in the parking lot of a commercial centre in suburban Makati.

Gunfire broke out and three of the "dealers" were slain, according to the Bureau of Investigation. Police also arrested a woman from a prominent family who was allegedly involved in the drug ring.

It should have been a resounding victory in the government's fledgling war on drugs but it quickly turned into a major scandal.

The three dead "drug dealers" turned out to be Col. Rolando de Guzman, deputy chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command; his intelligence chief Maj. Franco Calanog and a military informant.

De Guzman, the former Manila police chief, said the three were trying to sell \$10 million worth of heroin to an American, who escaped. He showed reporters what he said was the heroin seized.

Lim is considered one of President Corazon Aquino's closest allies and has been mentioned as a leading candidate to head a planned civilian National Police Force. The integrated national police is now part of the armed forces.

De Guzman's colleagues in the military were outraged by the killings. They claimed the three

were shot at close range, raising doubts about the police version of a "shootout."

"Based on the evidence so far gathered, it was clear that what happened... was cold-blooded murder," said Brig. Gen. Virgilio David, chief of the military's Narcotics Command. "The only question now is why they were killed."

Angry soldiers from de Guzman's command threatened re-prisals.

"I am having trouble controlling them," said Brig. Gen. Guimercindo Yap, chief of the Northern Luzon Command. "I have 40,000 men here resting over the incident. My men are very angry."

Faced with a crisis in the ranks, army Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa ordered the arrest of the police and Bureau of Investigation agent pending an investigation.

De Villa issued the arrest order while several of the policemen were at the presidential palace receiving decorations from Aquino for past accomplishments.

De Villa's support is crucial for Aquino in preventing future coup attempts. There have been six unsuccessful attempts to overthrow Aquino since she took power in 1986.

Mrs. Aquino has appointed a presidential commission to investigate the shootings. On Saturday, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon said Lim and de Villa had agreed to keep quiet until the investigation is completed.

Several critics said the shooting raised questions about police methods. Last year, Sen. Ernesto Herrera said drug lords frequently use legal loopholes or bribery to escape conviction.

Column 8

Limits on abortion fall to achieve goal — report

WASHINGTON (R) — Making abortion a crime fails to curb the practice so governments should instead improve the health and welfare of women and children, said a new study. "Laws and policies that restrict access to abortion don't curb the abortion rate — instead they cause women to die," said the study by the Worldwatch Institute. The institute is a non-profit environmental research group funded by foundation grants and the sales of its publications. An estimated 50 million abortions a year are performed worldwide, half of them illegal, and they occur in every country no matter what the law, the group found. A 30-year trend toward liberalisation in the laws governing abortion has brought about significant improvements in public health and lower fertility worldwide, it said.

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The row over the refugees has further soured Communist Cuba's already deteriorating relations with Czechoslovakia's new non-Communist government, which has made respect for human rights a priority.

The Cuban interests section in

6 escape in Soviet jail break

MOSCOW (R) — Six criminals were on the run on Friday after seizing three machine pistols and ammunition from guards and escaping from a van taking them from court to a Moscow prison, the Soviet government daily *Izvestia* reported.

Virus hits college computers

TOKYO (AP) — "Friday the 13th" computer virus that struck earlier this year infected 100 personal computers at Waseda University, but a university spokesman said Saturday the bug was detected before causing damage.

"There was no damage, but we will reprogram about 200 computers (out of 400) before the next Friday the 13th in September 1994," said Keiji Sakagami, spokesman for the Tokyo school.

Damage was forecasted when an alert user noticed that a virus which hit the campus in April was still in the system, Sakagami said. He said the centre managed to circumvent the problem by programming the internal clocks on the IBM 5300 computers to skip from the 12th to the 14th, he said.

The virus, a programme that can destroy data or hinder operations, appeared to be relatively mild. Computers on campus that were incapacitated by the virus programme Friday, April 13, were fixed by simply resetting them, Sakagami said. He did not say how many computers were affected in the earlier incident.

University officials speculate that the virus infected the system when users copied programmes off their own floppy disks onto hard disks in the university computers.

Pessimism clouds Paris talkson Cambodia

PARIS (R) — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council again seek a Cambodian peace in Paris talks this week, but without the optimism that launched their quest for a settlement earlier in the year.

The mood has changed, the chances of peace appear a little more elusive each day — but we must go on," said a French diplomat.

Ridley had said proposed European monetary union was "a German racket to take over Europe" and giving up British sovereignty to the European Community was like surrendering to Adolf Hitler. He described the French as "poodles" of the Germans.

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He leads one of the non-Communist factions in a loose coalition seeking to oust the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Publication of the interview drew a chorus of calls for his head within Thatcher's Conservative Party as well as from opposition parties.

Castro slams Czechs over refugees

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro, signalling a tough line against Cuban asylum seekers, has attacked former Communist ally Czechoslovakia for granting refuge to a group of Cubans at its Havana embassy.

"You can't allow people to just break into embassies by force," Castro told reporters at a reception at the French embassy.

Cuba is ready to protect foreign diplomatic missions and embassies should help by protecting themselves and not encouraging asylum-seekers, he said.

His comments Saturday followed reports by witnesses and Spanish diplomatic sources that Cuban police followed a would-be asylum seeker into the patio of the Spanish embassy Friday night and dragged him out, firing shots.

Spain, whose embassy was already sheltering three Cubans, has protested to Cuba over the incident, the sources said. Castro said he had not been informed of the case.

The Cuban interests section in

the United States currently falls under the diplomatic protection of the Czechoslovak embassy there.

In an apparent reference to this, Castro said: "For some time now, we haven't considered that Czechoslovakia represents us anywhere." He did not elaborate.

Cuba did not have agreements on the right of diplomatic asylum with European countries, Castro said. "Embassies of these countries do not have the right to grant asylum."

Castro said the Cubans sheltering at the Czechoslovak embassy were "anti-social elements, lumpen, without any political motives."

The Czechoslovak government has asked Havana to allow the 12 Cubans, five of whom say they are political dissidents, to travel freely to the country of their choice.

"Fourteen originally sought protection at the embassy last week but two left voluntarily Friday.

Refugees: Albania changing, but fear remains

BRINDISI, Italy (AP) — A factory worker could wear a crucifix in public. A mother noticed she could complain about food shortages without going to jail. And a student began to talk openly with friends about the Romanian revolution.

Changes have come recently to Albania, Europe's